GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3989
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Piped Water Supply in Rural Areas
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether providing safe drinking water to every person in rural India is a huge challenge for the Government;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the initiatives taken by the Government to face this challenge;
(c) whether all rural households have access to piped water supply in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has any special schemes/packages to attain the goal in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the per capita water consumption in the country, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) & (b) Providing drinking water supply to rural areas of the country is a dynamic and ongoing process. As most of our rural drinking water supply schemes are groundwater based there is a problem of slippages due to various reasons viz. depletion in ground water level , life span of drinking water scheme getting over, inadequate O&M of schemes etc. However, this Ministry is continuously striving to provide drinking water to each person of the rural areas of the country by assisting States financially & technically. For the purpose, a Strategic Plan for the rural drinking water sector has been prepared for the period 2011-2022, which stresses on extending the piped water supply to more households in the rural areas. The interim goal till 2017 was to cover 50% of all rural households with piped water supply which has been achieved. By 2022, the goal is to cover 90% rural households with piped water supply Moreover, this Ministry has accorded utmost priority to addressing the problem of Arsenic & Fluoride affected habitations in the country.
(c) This Ministry monitors the coverage of piped water supply in terms of % of population which is 54.54% as on date.
(d) To provide more thrust to mitigate concern of Arsenic & Fluoride, this Ministry has launched the National Water Quality Sub-Mission on 22nd March 2017. In 2017, approx. Rs. 986 Crore has been released in this regard.
(e) State wise per capita consumption of drinking water in the country is not monitored by the Ministry. Although it varies across the country depending on the availability of resources, under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines, the per capita consumption norm for drinking water in rural areas is at least 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd).